

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6718

BILL NUMBER: SB 235

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 2, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: State Employee Caseworkers at Township Offices.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Breaux

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Division of Family Resources (DFR) to locate a state employee caseworker at each township office and provide specified equipment for the caseworker to assist township residents with applying for public assistance programs.

The bill also requires the township trustee to provide necessary office space for the caseworker.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: It is estimated that a total of \$29.2 M would be necessary to assign a state-employed caseworker to each of the 1,008 township trustee offices. The expenses of caseworkers administering federal welfare programs could be eligible for federal administrative match of 50%, resulting in a state General Fund expenditure of \$14.6 M.

This estimate assumes that 562 additional state-employed caseworkers would be necessary to provide the level of coverage required by the bill and that the assignment of a caseworker to each trustee's office would result in the elimination of the county DFR office in 86 of the 92 counties. The estimate includes salaries and benefits for 562 entry-level caseworkers and \$6,000 each for the office equipment specified by the bill. It does not include expenses for telephone lines, data connectivity, supervision, training, office supplies, or moving expenses for the relocation of existing caseworkers to township office locations.

Funding for the additional state-employed staff could require an additional appropriation or it could potentially come from existing appropriations currently allocated to the modernization/privatization contracts.

The extent to which reallocating the existing funding for this purpose would result in the redistribution of existing resources in the largest counties and in the centralized data collection offices to township trustee offices is not known. Ultimately the source of funds would depend on actions taken by the administration and the General Assembly.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill requires township trustees to provide office space for a caseworker assigned to the township. The size of the office facilities of each of the 1,008 township trustees is not known. The cost of the required office space is indeterminate. Potentially this provision could increase the administrative expenses of individual township trustees. Square footage of office space attributable to a caseworker administering federal welfare programs could potentially be eligible for federal administrative match of 50%.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration, DFR.

Local Agencies Affected: Township trustees.

Information Sources: *State Staffing Report*, 11/30/2009; List of Indiana Townships, DLGF, Data Analysis Division; Township Population Estimates: STATS Indiana.

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